Main Features of an Islamic Society

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In the Name of Allâh, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

by 'Abdul'atheem Islaahi
Source: Economic Concepts of Ibn Taimiyah (pp. 137-8)

1. Faith in the Oneness of Allah, that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He gave mankind a code of life that guarantees their well-being in this world and in hte life hereafter (ma`aash wa ma`aad).

2. Co-operation. Human beings cannot live independent of each other. They have to live together and co-operate for the maximization of welfare and warding off evils.

3. A member of the Islamic society is not an 'economic man' but one with the goal of earning the pleasure of Allah through right action and service to his fellow human beings. Good intentions and right action thrive when they receive a positive response from others. Ultimately, competition in good deeds results in benefits to all concerned.

4. Generosity and benevolence must prevail in the society. People should prefer others' needs to their own needs. On the other hand, lust for money, and miserliness is condemned in all cases. Luxurious living should be avoided. The best policy is that of the middle ay.

5. In the society, there must not be monopoly, exploitation, fraud or ususious transactions. Good should be enjoined and evil should be forbidden. The state has an active role to play in economic life. It should intervene if freedom is abused or people are not fulfilling their obligations.

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